

C2 12. (Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

C3 Sub 2 14. (Amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

C4 Sub 3 19. (Amended) A method for increasing absorption of minerals from a diet comprising the steps of enterally administering to a mammal a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 19 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

22. (Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

C5 Sub 4 23. (Amended) A method for improving the absorption of minerals in a mammal comprising the steps of enterally administering to the mammal a nutritional composition comprising one or more *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

Please add Claims 24-26 as follows:

24. (newly added) The method of Claim 23 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

C6 25. (newly added) The method of Claim 24 wherein the *Lactobacillus* bacteria comprises a *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

Sub 4 26. (newly added) The method of Claim 23 wherein the nutritional composition comprises about 10^7 to about 10^{11} cfu/ml of the *Lactobacillus* bacteria.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified patent application.

Pursuant to the Preliminary Amendment, Claims 11, 12, 14, 19 and 21-23 have been amended